

GRAPEVINE

VISITACION VALLEY

Vol. III No. 7

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

FEBRUARY 1989

Maxicare Leaves Valley

By Pat Christensen

Visitacion Valley's only medical facility closed on January 31. The doctor, the nurse practitioner, the LVNs and the office manager have all gone off to other pursuits. The furniture is sold and the door is locked.

But patients still call and come to the door hoping that by some miracle Dr. Toussaint Streat, nurse Jackie Wasserman, Lupe Labourdett, and Thelma Washington will be there to greet them and take care of their pains and drive away their fears.

Instead each patient will be referred out to a medical provider as close as possible. "Our patients won't be able to walk around the corner to have all of their medical needs taken care of," laments Dr. Streat. "Family practitioners are rare in this area. Our patients will have to travel further and go to more than one place for service. Waits will be longer for appointments."



Lupe Martinez, Toussaint Streat, M.D., Jackie Wasserman, R.N., Thelma Washington, Wanda Oliver and Loree Skidmore at Leland Ave. Maxicare

Dr. Streat advises, "If you have a health care provider, stick with that person. Also people have to take responsibility for their own health. You can't just walk into the doctor's office and expect to be fixed up."

Toussaint Streat, M.D., started with the Leland Avenue facility when it opened in 1981 under the auspices of San Francisco Family Health Program

headed by Joanne Donski.

About that time, St. Mary's Hospital opened a Women's Health Clinic.

Rockridge HMO bought the medical treatment program in 1982 only to be quickly superseded by Health America and finally Maxicare.

"These changes in such rapid fire were very stressful,"

See Maxicare, Page 8

Grapevine editor wins CDM honor

The GRAPEVINE'S Managing Editor, Pat Christensen, received the 1988 Distinguished Service Award *Outstanding Citizen* from the San Francisco Council of District Merchants at the annual awards dinner dance at the Spanish Union Saturday, January 28th,

Presented the award by Bruce Lilienthal, former president of the Association and recent candidate for the Board of Supervisors, Lilienthal cited Christensen's promotion of merchants in the Inner Sunset including a holiday theme poster contest in 1987 and 1988 and the ongoing Emergency Food Box program as well as her stories about small business people and non-profit agencies which appear weekly in the San Francisco *Independent*.

Senator Milton Marks' wife, Carolene, also presented Christensen and eight other award winners with

See Award, Page 11

Neighborhood Note: Kaartunen takes breather

By Louise Kohut

Anne Kaartunen's "Neighborhood Notes" column will be temporarily, we hope, retired from the GRAPEVINE due to her desire to devote more of her endless energies to Vis Valley's current and future youth programs.

Born and reared in Vis Valley, Anne considers herself a full-time volunteer and has always been involved with youth activities.

She has lived in other areas of San Francisco, but after being away 16 years, returned to her home in 1985 with her supportive husband and two children.

Within a few months after moving back, she won the Koshland Award in 1985 for her hard work in establishing and consistently maintaining Vis Valley's Camp Fire youth organization. She said that since winning this award, her youth and community involvement exploded,

keeping her busier than ever.

A future project for Anne will find her expanding the Camp Fire program, which now meets twice a week for elementary and middle school age children, to every weekday. Along with the regular meetings during the school day, she has plans for field trips and short get-a-way

vacations for herself and the youth.

Anne now teaches six

gardening classes a week, and her youth gardening club is busy planning the spring planting. Before forming this club, she said that she didn't know much about vegetable gardening.

She envisions creating a

See Neighborhood, Page 10

In the Vine
Matthew Brady talks dirty

See Page 3

St. Luke's ready to step in to medi-gap
See Page 9

A celebration of Black History Month

See essay, Page 10

Editorial

A number of violent crimes occurred in broad daylight in Vis Valley during the last few days of January.

Cuneo's Bakery was robbed at gunpoint; a burning gas bomb was tossed into Vis Valley Elementary School's bushes; high schoolers beat up on two boys in different incidents, a car thief was foiled in front of the community center, and boys were abusive and threatening to Middle School principal and teachers.

There are people who will help us - starting with SFPD, SAFE, Deputy Mayor William Witte, the Housing Commission, and especially the San Francisco Organizing Project.

SFOP is a coalition of churches, unions, community volunteers and Citizen Action League. Its mission is to assist in organizing efforts in communities throughout San Francisco.

We can ask them to help us. But before we do that, we must gather a base of support here in the Valley. Please read Henry Schindel's letter on this page appealing for people to come together and fight back against the wrongs which we allow to ruin our community.

If you want to join in the battle against the crack dealers, the muggers, the thieves, the graffiti vandals, write Editor, Vis Valley Grapevine, 50 Raymond Ave, SF 94134 and we'll begin to organize.



CENTERVOICE

By Julie Kavanagh

We are always looking for ways to serve the families of the Valley that will include all ages and interests. Soon to start at the Center are Art and Craft and Photography classes, plus music lessons.

We are looking also for a dance teacher with reasonable rates, who would like to do a Saturday class here at VVCC.

Our first Pancake Breakfast was good and lots of fun, so we plan to do another very soon (watch for

our flyers!)

We're beginning to plan for the Annual Street Fair and Art Festival, which will be the third Saturday in May - anyone interested in helping by being part of the Fair and Festival Committee should contact me in the next few weeks for meeting information.

A good way to make sure that VVCC addresses your particular interest is to call and make it known to me. If there is enough interest in a particular subject, a class or a club can be organized, either with volunteers or with "borrowed" teachers.

Some ideas that have come to my attention lately are: a juggling class? a series of local history lectures? sign language? cooking? baseball card collecting and investment? a lecture on tax law changes and Senior Citizens? a video workshop? "Grandparents are great" (for families)? making your own puzzles and mazes? Are any of you interested in these?

Can you think of an interesting class or club? Do you have a skill or interest you would like to share with us? We're interested, especially for early evening and Saturday hours. We'd like more participation from young and middle adults, who are either at school or work during the week.

This is your Center. Your Community. The kids in the neighborhood have taken an

interest in the betterment of our neighborhood and participate in the Junior San Francisco Alive Club.

Why not take their example to heart? What can adults organize to do that will help our neighborhood? I'd be happy to host a meeting to discuss this and any other concerns. If 10 people call me to make suggestions or express interest, I'll announce a meeting date in the next issue of the GRAPEVINE.

VVCC Arts Program:
Tentative class schedule
(depending on teacher

availability and student preferences)

Art Class: Mon, Wed & Fri
3:00 to 5:30.

Photography Class: Tues & Thurs 3:00 to 5:30.

Music Class: Saturday
10:30 to 12:00 and 1:00 to
2:30.

Dance Class: (to be arranged)

Pancake Breakfast: Saturday, February 25, 1989 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Price: \$2.00 adults and \$1.25 children under 13.

From our readers

Dear Readers:

Visitacion Valley needs the help of all its residents, NOW!

Crime is rampant!
Drugs are easily had!
Burglaries and robberies are up!

Our club, the Visitacion Valley Improvement Association was founded in 1905 and is still going strong, but it needs all the Valley to join to give us the voice we need in City Hall.

Our dues are only \$2 per family per year. We meet the fourth Friday of every month. Police or supervisors or other groups attend our meetings to give us help and

information.

Five lottery tickets are given away each meeting, and we have refreshments.

Send your check for \$2 today to 91 Leland Avenue, SF 94134, and attend our February meeting on Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m. at Visitacion Valley Community Center, 62 Raymond Ave.

We need new officers. Your help is needed and will be greatly appreciated.

If you have questions, please call 239-5850, weekdays from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Sincerely,
Henry Schindel
President

GRAPEVINE

VISITACION VALLEY

Managing Editor	Pat Christensen
Typesetter	Arkie Mangelsdorf
Distribution	Carla Villanueva
Bookkeeper	Lenida Reyes
Secretary	Marie Vidal
Clerical Asst.	Anne Moore
Advertising	Anne Kaartunen
Production	John Moses
Contributors:	
Matthew Brady	
Gerry Galvan	
Anne Kaartunen	
Julie Kavanagh	
Tamara Vargas	
Jacqueline Wasserman	

Published monthly at the Visitacion Valley Community Center
50 Raymond Avenue
S.F. 94134; (415)467-6400
Exec. Dir. Julia A. Kavanagh
Opinions expressed in the GRAPEVINE do not necessarily reflect those of Visitacion Valley Community Center

Funding provided by
San Francisco Foundation

Production facilities courtesy
Schlage Lock Co.

Annual subscription \$6.00
Circulation 7,000

Printed at Grant Printing House

Romance of the city's old sewers

By Matthew Brady

In its younger days San Francisco was a dangerous city to live in, not because of the street cowboys but due to inadequate sewage disposal, which resulted in the death of 16,964 citizens between 1872 and 1893.

The people died from zymotic disease caused by fermenting garbage and sewage. A large amount of sewage languished within the city boundaries; it had drained into the upper end of Channel Street and the streets immediately adjacent from the built-up neighborhoods. As there was no uniform guide to sewer pipe construction or plans on where to lay the pipes underground, sewer pipes were breaking, causing clearing out the accumulated contents can be devised which if faithfully carried out will in a great measure afford a proper remedy."

In 1893, when it looked as if this coast metropolis was about to be visited by the black plague, the Board of Supervisors issued this grim

statement: "With sewage outfalls all around our waterfront from Pierce Street on the North to Islais Creek on the South, with Mission Flats so fouled with garbage, street sweepings, and sewage that no lead paint can withstand the tarnishing effect of the contaminated air to the leeward, with countless filth repositories on or connected with every line of sewers, and with structural defects that entail great annual expense of repair and maintenance, it is not surprising that the necessity for seeking a remedy was at last recognized."

The supervisors were referring to their appointment of two sewer engineers, Marsden Manson and C. E. Grunsky, whose assignment was to survey the 200 miles of sewer pipes, which in those days were made of redwood, brick, cement, and ironstone.

The first thing they discovered was that manholes did not have built-in steel ladders that led to the sewers, so no one bothered to go down into the



Poor design and shoddy work on San Francisco sewer pipes were responsible for the death of 16,964 citizens between 1872 and 1893



streets to cave in and sewage to cascade through various districts. At one time there were 150 broken sewers spewing out filth. In the dry season the Channel Street estuary was filled up with sewage that should have been carried off by rain and tidal movement; to make matters worse, from 250 to 275 loads of foul and putrefying garbage were dumped each day in the lowlands.

People living on slopes and hills could depend on gravity flow for drainage, but those who built their homes on the flats found it difficult or impossible to provide satisfactory drainage without recourse to a pumping system, which San Francisco never bothered to build. In the 1880's Visitacion Valley had 990 acres of watershed that could have drained sewage into the Bay south of Hunters Point.

Mayor Washington Bartlett showed his concern over the distressing filth problem in his January 1883 inaugural address: "Much of the unhealthiness of the city, especially the southern portion, is attributed to the choked and damaged condition of the sewers. To a certain extent this condition is due to neglect and defective construction."

"Certainly some comparatively inexpensive plan of flushing them and

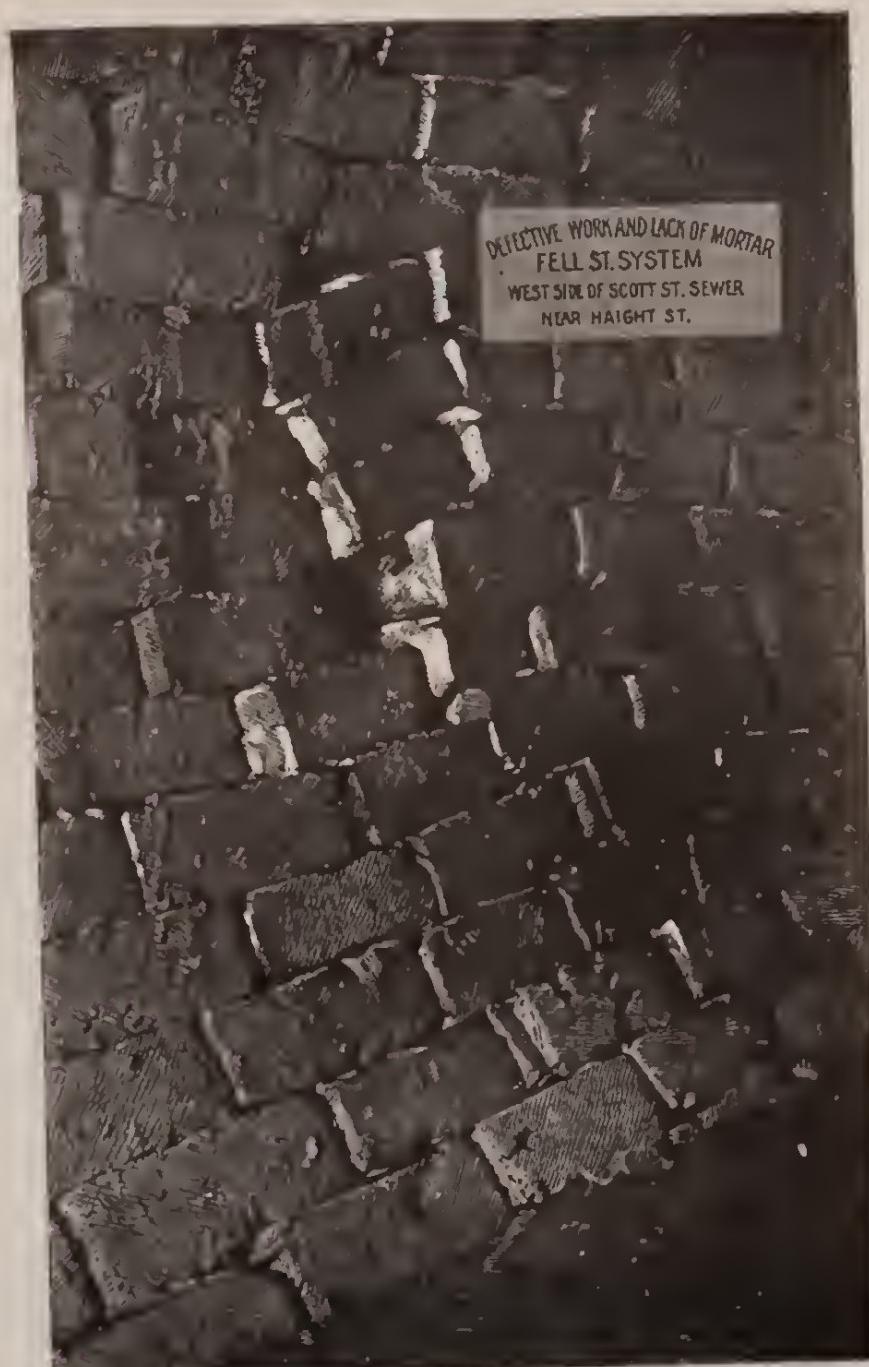
underground pipes to check out their condition. And when the two engineers wanted to know the rate of rainfall, an element in the determination of the volume of drainage required for each district of the City, they found that the United States Weather Bureau was not even equipped with a rain gauge. Rain totals had been recorded at fixed time intervals (generally 8 or 12 hours) but no information was available as to variations in the rate of fall.

Thousands died from diseases caused by a leaking sewer system.

The engineers found that information on how deep sewer pipes had been laid was so fragmentary and in such poor form as to be of no value whatsoever. They also found defects of construction and design of such Himalayan proportions as to make the total San Francisco sewer system worthless.

The two engineers fingered the system of municipal administration as being at fault more than individual city officers. What was needed was intelligent and honest engineering supervision.

This is the first of a series on the Sunnydale Sewer Project.



Agnos on neighborhood issues

By Pat Christensen

Neighborhood issues and city policy were subjects of discussion at the January meeting of the San Francisco Neighborhood Newspaper Association with Mayor Art Agnos.

During these regular bi-monthly meetings, the newspaper publishers and the Mayor have a free discussion of the problems faced by the neighborhoods and the city.

The GRAPEVINE brought to the Mayor our concern regarding the lack of medical and mental health services in Visitacion Valley. With the withdrawal of Maxicare, the Valley has no convenient, nearby services. San Francisco General is the closest facility. The Mayor had no immediate answers for this problem; however he listened to the problem.

Mayor Agnos opened discussion on the problems the city faces in this next budget year. Agnos estimates a \$70 million budget deficit this year providing we have a normal rainfall. The city relies on revenues from the sale of hydroelectric power and water from the Hetch Hetchy reservoir. In drought years, the income drops from nearly \$50 million per year to less than \$10 million.

AIDS is an increasing problem for the city. No cure has been found; although the infection rate appears to be declining. Those who are infected will require more and more expensive medical care



Gail Corbett, Bernal Journal and Mayor Agnos as their illness progresses.

Crack cocaine didn't exist a few years ago. Now it is an epidemic. The Mayor has conferred with officials in other cities and no solutions have been found.

Community outrage combined with community based programs can discourage drug dealing in playgrounds and other public areas.

"Homelessness is increasing across the nation," and the Mayor claims, "significant strides have been made to help them." "We've stopped the insanity of one-night stands," he says. "We have stopped treating this as a temporary problem."

Now the City arranges for 3 to 7 night billets for homeless persons, and Agnos hopes "to arrange a combination of bond acts, industry and union contributions to provide funding and construction services to purchase buildings and install social

services beginning the process for homeless people to get out of that situation. We must provide safe living conditions with monitors in the buildings. Also we want

to get non profit corporations to run the facilities."

The Mayor outlined several areas for action in 1989:

Vacancy Control - The Mayor is working with Supervisor Harry Britt

participating in discussions and debate to write a "smart and thoughtful law."

Parking and Traffic - Implementation of Prop D will affect 13 city departments and according to Agnos, "is the biggest change in city government in 20 years." A task force and a deputy mayor will construct a central parking and traffic authority.

Family benefit policy for city workers - This will affect single gay employees as well as traditional families. A single worker might be taking care of an elderly parent or a single gay worker might be taking care of a lover in a long term relationship. There is precedent for family policies which are equitable to differing life styles.

Other areas of development will be the port of San Francisco, the Pier 45 fishing center, an overhaul of the Embarcadero roadway from Fisherman's Wharf to China Basin, the new library, and one of the mayor's favorite topics, a world class sports arena.

Feuding? Fussing? Fighting?

Call **COMMUNITY BOARD**

Since 1977

Dispute Resolution
for and by
Neighbors

Fast • Peaceful • Free

161 Leland Ave. (415) 239-6100
San Francisco, CA 94134

Curbside recycling plan topic of meeting

Representatives from the City of San Francisco's Recycling Program will make a brief presentation on the new curbside recycling program at the February meeting of the Visitacion Valley Improvement Association, Friday, Feb. 24 at 7:30 p.m., 62 Raymond Ave.

The curbside program will begin this Spring in the valley and other neighborhoods in the southern part of the city.

Participants will be able to recycle newspaper, scrap paper, glass bottles, cans and plastic soda containers by leaving them on the curb on garbage pick-up days.

The City will provide free recycling containers.

Visitacion Valley Community Center

50 Raymond Ave San Francisco 467-6400

* Family School Program	* Food Distribution
* Youth Program	* Theatre Works
* Community Garden	* Senior Activities

SUNDAY BINGO

Doors open at 12 noon
FREE MARKERS AVAILABLE TO ALL NEW PLAYERS

15 regular games with \$200 prizes

7 special games with \$250 prizes

Games start at 2 p.m.

Calendar

Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26: Sunday Afternoon Bingo, 2:00 p.m. (doors open at 12:30 p.m.) at VVCC, 50 Raymond Ave.

Feb. 6: Chinese New Year - Gung Hay Fat Choy!

Feb. 12: Lincoln's Birthday.

Feb. 14: Valentine's Day

Feb. 15: SAC/BAC meets, 10 a.m., VisValley Middle School, Room 101.

Feb. 16: SSC/SAC/BAC meets, 5 p.m., VisValley Elementary School, Room 106.

Feb. 17 & 20: Public schools are closed.

Feb. 22: Washington's Birthday, public school are open.

Feb. 24: VisValley Improvement Assoc., 7:30 p.m., VVCC, 62 Raymond Ave.

Feb. 25: VVCC Pancake Breakfast, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

FEB 28: Camp Fire Candy Sale.

Feb. 28: Hearing on Vacancy Control, Board of Supervisors Land Use Committee, City Hall Board Chambers, call 558-7175 for times and information.

Bob Fischer: New on the block

Meet Century 21, Excelsior Properties, newest agent, Robert Fischer.

Bob has lived on Loehr St. with his wife, Blanca, and their sons, Willie, 17, Nicolas 14, and their daughter, Evelyn, 13, for 13 years.

A postal worker at the Napolean St. facility, Bob begins work at 3:30 a.m. and then sells real estate in the afternoons and evenings. Readers may remember Bob as the Santa Claus on Leland Ave. during the holiday season.

We Know Visitacion Best!



EXCELSIOR PROPERTIES
40 Leland Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94134
(Near Bank of America)



ROBERT
FISCHER
Res: 239-2429

587-2000

Classifieds

Windows and Carpentry Repairs
Aluminum Windows
City Window Service 337-9327

Display ad salesperson wanted for GRAPEVINE Commission. Will train. Exclusive territory. Part-time. Call 467-6400, leave rmsg., call will be returned.



PALACE PHARMACY



2800 Geneva Ave., Daly City, CA. 94014
(415) 467-5232

VISITACION VALLEY PHARMACY

100 Leland Ave., San Francisco, CA. 94134
(415) 239-5811

OLIVER LEE, PHARM.D.
JOHN LEE, PHARM.D.

李華昌 藥劑科博士
李 錦昌 藥劑科博士

TAX-AID

DO TAX FORMS GIVE YOU A HEADACHE?
Let TAX-AID Fill Them Out—For Free!

Trained TAX-AID volunteers will help fill out your state and federal income tax returns—free of charge!

To qualify for free TAX-AID:

You must have earned \$16,000 or less in 1988 and no more than \$2,000 more for each family member.

Available February 15 to April 13
Locations:

Chinatown Recreation Center
Washington at Mason, upstairs meeting room
Wednesdays and Thursdays
7 - 9 p.m.

Mission YMCA
4080 Mission (between Silver and Bosworth)
Tuesdays
6 - 8 p.m.

Hamilton Recreation Center
Geary and Steiner auditorium
Mondays (closed February 20)
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Glide Memorial Church
330 Ellis (at Taylor), Room 101
Wednesdays and Thursdays
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

SF Boys & Girls Club
1950 Page Street (at Stanyan)
Mondays
6 - 8 p.m.

Potrero Hill Neighborhood House
953 De Haro, arts & crafts room
Mondays (closed February 20)
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Mission Community College
106 Bartlett, main floor cafeteria
Thursdays
7 - 9 p.m.

San Francisco AIDS Foundation
25 Van Ness, Room 330
February 27, March 13 and 27. Call a social worker at 864-5855

Bring:
• All 1988 W-2 and 1099 forms, and any record of other income, such as bank interest, tips and unemployment compensation. Bring all the records for you and your family.
• Your Social Security number, and the Social Security number of each family member.
• Records of expenses, such as medical bills and child-care costs, which may help cut your taxes.
• Your 1987 state and federal income tax returns.
• Your landlord's name, address and phone number.
• Any 1988 tax forms you received in the mail.

TAX-AID thanks the following for their support:

American Jewish Congress, Arthur Andersen & Co., Barristers Club of the San Francisco Bar Association, Broad Schulz, Larson & Wineberg, Bronson, Bronson & McKinnon, Commerce Cleaning House, Inc., Deloitte, Haskins & Sells, Farrel, Braun & Martel, Flood & Strong, Morrison & Foerster, Neils, Inc., Petru & Martin, Price Waterhouse, San Francisco Chapter of the California Society of CPAs, San Francisco Recreation & Park Department, Touche Ross & Co., Coopers & Lybrand

For more information, call 434-5533

PATRICK S. NOLAN, D.M.D.
General Dentistry

5 Peabody Street
San Francisco 94134

Telephone
239-5500

JIM FRENN PAINTING

Commercial and Residential
Exterior and Interior
Waterproofing

Insured and Bonded

(415) 564-5034
P. O. Box 16116 License #442272
San Francisco, CA 94116

ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

240 Leland Avenue
San Francisco, Ca. 94134

Sunday Worship Service
10:30a.m.

Rev. Jim Eakin

237-6743

PARENT LINK

Leave time to daydream

What are your best memories from childhood? Swinging idly on a tire hung from a tree limb in your yard or neighborhood? Looking for images of animals, airplanes or castles in billowing clouds? Getting lost for a entire winter morning in the pages of a lavishly illustrated book? Playing hide-and-seek with a neighborhood full of friends?

The traditional activities of children - scuffing through piles of leaves in autumn, searching for tadpoles at the edge of a swamp, making 'angels' in the snow, starting a 'pick-up' ballgame on the local vacant lot - seem to be giving way more and more to structured activities like scouting, team sports, dance and music lessons, practices and meetings almost every day after school and all weekend.

While the cultural, social and educational advantages

of these activities cannot be disputed, it seems almost as if society has conspired to rob children of their most precious possessions: time and creativity.

Parents want the best for their children and providing enriching experiences for them is fine. But parents must also remember that a lot of important growing and learning takes place during children's seemingly idle hours.

Kids need time to daydream and explore the world around them, following their own interests at their own pace. **Play** is the work of childhood. Creativity, imagination, expression, understanding the physical world, getting to know oneself - these are the very important outcomes of unstructured play.

Children also need to learn to take charge of their own time. If every moment is planned for them, they might have a difficult time later

figuring out what to do with their free time. Childhood is a time to learn the delights of occasionally meandering through an afternoon, seeing the small things that are missed in busy schedules and having time to reflect, absorb and integrate what is seen.

Children need time during their days to daydream.

Like adults, children need time alone, time to put other activities in perspective, time to enjoy one's own company, time to think. If your child wants to spend an occasional afternoon alone in their room or poking around the yard, let them. Make sure there are stretches of time built into their week when they have "nothing" to do - no clubs,

meetings, lessons, homework or chores.

Children may choose to spend some of their really free time alone and some with friends. Playing board games, sandlot ballgames and "pretend" games with friends - without having to follow the rules and time limits of adults - give children a chance to learn to socialize, negotiate and compromise.

When a group of children "argue" over the rules of a game and spend as much time "setting up" a game as actually playing it, the child is learning the give and take of getting along with others, how to exert their will and the importance of not always getting their way. Also, many board games actually improve children's vocabularies and teach mathematical concepts and logical and deductive thinking.

So let's go ahead and sign kids up for ballet lessons, Little League and Boy Scouts. We just need to make sure we also "sign them up" for some time to daydream.

The Messy Bedroom

By Gabriel R. Moniz

There once was a little boy named Billy who never cleaned his bedroom. His Mother would tell him over and over to clean his room, but he just would not listen. Then one windy day Billy was doing his homework in his uncleaned room when out of nowhere a little green man was standing before him. "Who are you?" asked Billy. The little green man then spoke out in a small squeaky voice, "I'm Elvin. I'm a troll, and I'm here to take you to the place where kids go to live when they don't clean their room," said Elvin the little troll. So Elvin took Billy by the hand and POOF! they were gone. Elvin took Billy to a big huge enormous bedroom full of young boys and girls. The big room the boys and girls were in was a mess. It had cats, mice, spiders, and every other kind of bug. The children in the room had torn up clothes, messy hair, and you can tell they had not taken a bath for at least three years. "I would not want to live here," said Billy.

that was on his leg. "Yes anything to stay out of this old dirty room," Billy told Elvin.

"O.K. here we go," said Elvin as he took Billy's hand. POOF! they were gone. Elvin took Billy back home. "Well I'll be on my way now, but I'll be back if I find out that you have not been keeping your room clean," Elvin told him.

"You bet from now on I'm going to keep my room clean forever," said Billy. Then POOF! Elvin was gone.

The next day Billy's mother walked into Billy's room. "Oh dear! I never thought I would ever see this room clean!" Billy's mom told him astonished.

"And from now on mom, I'm going to keep my room clean forever," yelled the excited Billy.

So Billy's Mother took Billy for an ice cream.

So if you don't want Elvin to visit you, keep your room clean!

The author, Gabriel R. Moniz, is the grandson of Leona Vigo, a resident of Bay Shore. Gabriel is 12 years old and attends Houston Middle School in Lockeford, Calif.



© copyright Kaartunen Associates

From underground

The drawing above was submitted by one of the Middle School students, who is a participant in the new mural class at the Community Center. A mural is being designed by boys and girls and adults for the retaining wall at the VVCC. These participants will paint the mural, which depicts things found under the ground. The mural will be completed by mid-May and a celebration is being planned. The class is taught by Ms. Jo Tucker (she did the Library Mural) and support for this project came from The California Arts Council, Local Merchants, VVCC, Community Volunteers and

Visitacion Valley Elementary and Visitacion Valley Middle Schools.

The Wednesday class is at capacity with youngsters; however we would like to have more adult participants for the Monday class at 1 p.m.

Senior citizens, retired adults or adults with children in school are invited to discover the fun and relaxation of drawing. We will also have some predesigned areas on the wall to paint (paint by numbers) if you are hesitant about drawing. For more information contact: A. Kaartunen 239-1069.

"Are you willing to keep your room clean?" asked Elvin. Billy wiped off a spider

Christensen

Continued from Page 8

husband and wife to earn the money for the downpayment and amortization. "In many cases, the children have to land a job each and chip in to share the obligation."

"Some people have the mistaken notion that the continuous rise in price of homes is good," Christensen said. "On the contrary, it is a tragedy. It silently divides society in classes of haves and the have nots. It appears that a family with more members get the upper hand while that which has just two, three or one will be phased out of the market," he lamented.

Christensen foresees a continuous trend in high home prices.

Born in Ingleside, San Francisco to a Laplander lady and a gentleman from the Arctic region, he spent his youth in Visitacion Valley from 1934 to 1957.

Don and his wife Marjorie both are only children. And they have one child, a daughter. The Christensens live in San Carlos, California.

By A. Kaartunen

Although I am retiring from writing this column, I wish to assure our readers of my continued interest in the happenings of Visitacion Valley. I still will be a community advocate seeking to resolve problems and pursue the development of Neighborhood-based services related to programs for youth, community safety, health and new businesses.

Working as a volunteer for the GRAPEVINE has been a memorable experience, where I found new opportunities and a treasury of new friends. If any of our readers have some spare time for a new adventure, please consider joining the GRAPEVINE staff as a writer, cartoonist, collator, proof reader or ad manager.

HAPPENINGS...

Recently, a public hearing

was held at the VVCC, regarding a new water pipeline (4ft in diameter) which will be installed on Peabody, Leland, Rutland and Tucker Streets, starting in March. This large water main will replace the outdated existing main and the project will involve digging up the streets with large equipment and trucks and will last over several months.

Tim McCarthy, the project manager answered the following concerns:

Where can residents park? Parking will be restricted during project working hours, however in the evening you may park in your garage. Residents suggested stickers be issued for free meter parking. This will be considered.

What about property/foundation damage? The contractors will seek residents permission to pre-inspect

their property, prior to the start of the project. Any new structural damage caused by the heavy equipment will be the responsibility of the project contractor.

Will the Rutland bus line be re-routed? Muni will be contacted and advised of the project and residents will be advised of any Muni changes.

Will equipment be secure and holes covered securely? Heavy metal covers will be placed over all areas dug and the equipment will be locked, however,

residents are encouraged to "neighborhood watch" and report any vandalism to the SFPD 553-0123 or notify the contractor, 564-0151. Further notices will be distributed when construction is about to begin.

VisValley's Jr. Alive Club wants to thank Golden Gate Disposal and especially Pete Ratto for donating a dumpster for the elementary school garden clean-up.

Quentin Kopp: An angry man for angry times

By Victor Miller and Brian Doohan

Two years ago, former supervisor and mayoral candidate Quentin Kopp won a close and bitter election as an Independent to the State Senate in a district covering the west side of San Francisco and part of northern San Mateo County. Since his election, Kopp has performed much the same role in Sacramento as he had at City Hall.. keeping the same sharp eye out for governmental waste and wielding the same sharp tongue against bureaucratic folly that had critics whining about "excess vindictiveness."

Kopp, who sits on committees dealing with Housing and Urban Affairs, Local government, Toxic and Public Safety, and Transit, returned to San Francisco to discuss fish and taxes, garbage, gasoline and Canadian treachery with members of the San Francisco Neighborhood Newspaper Association in a wide-ranging interview in his offices in the old State Building on McAllister Street. Following are some of his views on issues that affect his West of Twin Peaks constituency, the city and the state.

Small business shutdowns and evictions:

"I voted against the ban on commercial rent control because I am opposed to State pre-emption of local issues. It's not a statewide problem because there's a lot of vacant commercial space statewide."

"It was the Democrats who supported preemption. They had it wired. As an attorney, I believe that there is little likelihood of the law being overturned by the courts."

The editor of the Visitacion Valley paper noted the closing of 15 businesses on Leland Avenue when the buildings were bought by foreign investors...

"Exclusion of foreign investment is a national issue. Some State laws could be passed, but you run the risk of being called xenophobic. That doesn't bother the Canadians. They restricted American investment but Canadians are developing Yerba Buena Center."

Public housing in the Bush administration:

"Jack Kemp (the Secretary



State Sen. Quentin Kopp

of Housing and Urban Development) has a lot of ideas. Possible state funds could be used as down payment loans to privatize the projects."

"The legislature passed a bond issue to replace lost federal funds for public housing requiring notice to tenants and substitute housing provisions when the bonds expire. The Governor vetoed it. I carried a bill that would have given state income tax credits if rent levels were maintained after temporary low-income housing provisions expire. The Governor vetoed it."

"I think the Governor and the majority of the legislators might have different views on whether privatization funding of public housing would be for the benefit of the tenants or outside investors. You probably would see a compromise."

Sen. Kopp voted against a commercial rent control proposal.

San Francisco garbage gouging:

"Garbage companies cannot raise rates without approval from the Chief Administrative Officer, the Controller and the head of the Public Utilities Commission. What they are doing is charging a 'key fee' for access to the cans. They say it isn't a rate increase and the city appears to go along, but in one instance in the Haight the garbage rates were raised from \$32 to \$52 a month."

This report was excerpted from notes published after a December meeting hosted by State Senator Quentin Kopp for the San Francisco Neighborhood Newspaper Association and reprinted with permission of the North Mission News.

Christensen returns to roots

By Gerry L. Galvan

Here's the story of a man who, after making a name for himself in popular music, production of quality American beer and real estate, has returned to his childhood residence where he is carving a niche in big-time home development and sales.

Don Christensen (no relation to Pat Christensen, GRAPEVINE'S editor) is that well-rounded professional described above. He is general manager of Excelsior Properties on Leland Avenue, San Francisco. His affiliation with Excelsior, franchise of Century 21 appears to be a happy move. Since Jan. 9 this year when he first joined the realty, things have been perkier and peppier.

Mr. Christensen brings with him decades of business experience that only a few of his contemporaries can equal. He also is knowledgeable in business and economic theory. He's a conservative who loves to talk about the days when one could afford to buy a piece of property on the take home pay of just one member of the family.

"During the early thirties, when I was growing up on Talbert," he recounted, "I could hear my elders talk about the prices of homes."



Don Christensen

It didn't really ring a bell in the ears of young Christensen. It was later in his youth that the words *real estate values* started to implant a much deeper meaning in his analytical mind.

By current standards, the 1930's, 40's, 50's, 60's, and 70's were the genuine real estate boom periods. A review of the 70's confirms the concept that the lower the selling price of houses, the better it is for the economy in general and business in particular.

Don Christensen draws a comparison on the \$32,500 price of a house sold in 1973 to the \$285,000 asking price of a similarly situated property in 1988. "I am sure that only one breadwinner would have been sufficient to raise the monthly payments," he said.

At the rate things are going now, it takes at least
See Christensen, Page 7

CHURCH of The VISITACION
MOTHERS CLUB

Valentine Bingo
Luncheon

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1989

Church Activity Hall Donation \$7
One FREE BINGO CARD INCLUDED

For Reservations, call: Florence 239-5115
or Viola 467-7338

Maxicare Leaves Valley

Continued from Page 1

recalls Streat. "Many Visitacion Valley people will remember Dr. Sam Ho and nurse practitioner Kim Kelly. Kim moved to Sacramento to become a public health nurse, and Jackie Wasserman came on board. (Wasserman writes a monthly health column for the GRAPEVINE) Sam Ho is Director of Services for S.F. Dept. of Health."

"When we first came here, it was with the idea that we would be a total health care system for this small area, and I think that right up until we close our doors, we will have pulled it off. We covered a gambit, and we did it without secretarial help. I'll never work in that kind of a system again. People get mad at you if you don't get your paper work done, and I can't blame them. But the patients came first."

"Through these eight years we have handled all kinds of cases," continues Streat, "everything from psychiatry to alcoholism to every kink of medical problem - except we did not take emergencies. Our facility was not licensed for that."

At its peak time, Maxicare's two physicians would see 50 to 60 patients a day, and the nurse practitioner would see about 30.

'There's an argument that says 'well, I came and had to wait an hour to be seen, but someone needed that hour's service. They might have been bleeding to death, or had a psychological breakdown, all patients would receive that same kind of consideration if they needed the service."

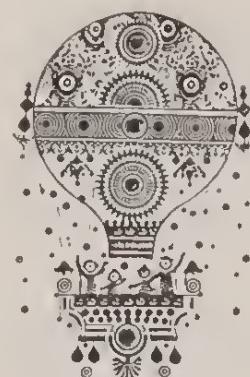
"People have had heart attacks, women have gone into labor here. We've stuck our fingers into wounds to keep the blood from running out waiting for an ambulance to take the person to emergency. I've even removed bullets."

"And I wouldn't trade a day of it. I've loved it. We boogied, yes, we did, we boogied."

For a time, however, Toussaint Streat is going to sit on a beach and dangle his feet in the water, then he and his family will think about where the future will take them.

You're Invited to
A 40th Birthday Party!!

Sunday, February 5, 1989



St. Elizabeth's School opened in 1949. We'll be celebrating our 40th birthday in 1989. We would like to invite everybody who attended St. Elizabeth's School at any time — and everybody who has been or is involved with our school or parish — to a Birthday Celebration on February 5. Please extend this invitation to family members and friends! We would love to see old friends!

Please mark your calendar:

— St. Elizabeth's School —
40th Birthday Party
Sunday, February 5, 1989
Liturgy: 10:30 a.m. in Church
Reception: Following in School Auditorium
Open House: Following in School



Le'Mil
Salon De Beaute

What's new?

Hairstyling, Hair coloring
Permanent, Barbering,
Special for Oriental
Manicure/Pedicure

Under New Management

21 Leland Avenue
San Francisco

Call for Appointment
Phone: 239-5000

Ciao Pinin

The cinema

By Joe Porter

Reminiscing is lots of fun. You forget the present as you dwell on the nostalgia of the past. It is thus I am recalling my days in the moving picture industry.

My mother was a business woman par excellence who never overlooked an opportunity to increase the family's finances.

When she heard of a small neighborhood moving picture house being offered for sale, she decided to investigate. At the time, the cinema was a new industry with unlimited possibilities. She dragged us all along and was duly impressed. The house was jammed to the rafters.

We went back the next day and the day after and always found a full house.

"It's a gold mine," said my excited mother. "We can't miss!" She bought it.

My Grandfather became the manager, my youngest aunt the cashier, my brother the projectionist, and I was the organ player. It was strictly a family business.

On opening day we put out a sign: UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT, and hopefully waited.

We waited and nobody came.

Finally a couple walked in, then a man. Again a long time nothing.

Who is yonder in the distance? 'Tis a woman with six children. We got it made!

They came and walked right in, I mean right to their seats. "Lady," politely addressed my Grandmother, the manager. "You forgot to pay."

See Ciao, Page 12

Neighborhood

Continued from Page 1

pilot program in the valley to eradicate graffiti and now works with The Junior Alive Club, a group of approximately 14 youth whose goal is to clean up the graffiti, the parks and school yards in Vis Valley. Her plans in this endeavor include meeting with other youth in other programs involved with stamping out graffiti.

Currently, through her work with the community Mural Program, a new mural for the Community Center front wall called "Things Below the Ground" is now in the design phase. Other murals designed and created through this program may be seen at the library and schools.

Anne is a positive thinker and participant in our community and believes it is important to be involved. She said, "I am full of hope for all that can be done here," and

wants to remain in the Valley. She also wants to involve parents and hopes to hold parent workshops which



Anne Kaartunen

would bring adults together socially and allow them to talk about issues from child discipline to drugs.

Her pay backs are personal learning from the youth, helping them, and hearing the many "Hi's" on the street. As a result of her many efforts, she has worked with approximately 250 youth in the Valley.

Although we will miss her column, she said she hopes to continue the "GRAPEVINE Puzzler" and contribute future articles.

Essay

Why celebrate black history?

By Derrick K. Dogan

"I've been to the mountain top... I've looked over and I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight, that we as a people will get to the promised land," said Martin Luther King Jr. on the eve of his assassination nearly 21 years ago.

We have made much progress towards the dream that King envisioned, but there's more to be accomplished. This feeling appears to be shared by a majority of American blacks. According to a newly released Harris Poll, 85 percent of the blacks polled said they felt more should be done for minorities while just 49 percent of whites think so.

Now as never before, it is vital that Black Americans be taught that their forefathers achieved their place in American history, side by side with the white man. With knowledge of such a heritage, Black Americans may walk with pride and work with hope, becoming useful citizens and contributing their individual abilities toward the betterment of themselves and all mankind.

It is equally important that whites should learn of the achievements of the black man and thereby better understand and appreciate their black brothers. Blacks have been given only token recognition throughout the pages of history.



During the Harlem Renaissance an awareness of black achievement was brought to light by the late professor and scholar, Carter G. Woodson, founder of the Association of Black Life and History. In 1926, an observance was held known as Negro History Week in order to acquaint a wider public with the roles and contributions of blacks.

On August 28, 1963 more than 200,000 Americans of all races and creeds from all over the nation met in Washington D.C. to demonstrate for Civil Rights. At that time, King delivered his famous "I Have A Dream" speech. King's dream must become a reality or in its place America will continue to experience nightmares of violence and racial struggles.

Indeed we have made progress, but we still have a long way to go to get to the root of King's dream. The question which confronts every American must be, "What will make the difference?"

SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM

Name			
Address			
City	State	Zip	
Mail with check for \$6.00 to: Visitacion Valley Grapevine c/o VVCC 50 Raymond Avenue San Francisco, CA 94134			

RECEIVE 12 ISSUES

Thank you to our new subscriber - Steve Mitchell
of Sawyer Street.

we serve with honesty & dependability
FOR YOU - we buy, sell, trade,
rent, manage

HENRY SCHINDEL
Real Estate Broker

91 Leland Avenue 239-5850
San Francisco 94134

Little Hollywood Reports

Little Hollywood Improvement Association

Recycling Little Hollywood

Sanitary Fill Corporation is starting a curbside recycling program in Little Hollywood. This means that instead of throwing away newspapers, cans, bottles and other items which can be recycled, we can put them into containers they provide for pick-up.

By having more trash recycled, we might be able to reduce our garbage volume and our costs.

Candlestick Park

A study is being done to find out how we can reduce traffic

problems during ballgames and other events at Candlestick. We all know about the unruly crowds, littering, drunken fans illegally turning our streets into one way roads, parking, and clogging our streets preventing us from getting to and from our homes or emergency vehicles getting to us when needed.

Anyone who has a story to tell or who has received a traffic citation for trying to get into your own home should call 467-9669. The members of the Bayview Hill Neighborhood Association on the other side of Candlestick are going to work with us on

this.

Hester Ave. Development

Kirk Miller from Hood Miller Associates spoke at the January 25 meeting. They are real estate developers who plan to build homes on Hester Ave. next to the Bayside Motel.

This is the same developer who has a project at the end of Wilde Ave. near McLaren Park.

So far the Association opposing the plans for the Hester Ave. development. Meetings with the developer will continue.

\$10,000 grant

Heart health projects sought

A grant of up to \$10,000 is available for innovative community service projects that will contribute to the awareness, prevention or treatment of heart disease and stroke. The grant is offered by the American Heart Association, San Francisco Chapter for the year of July 1, 1989 to June 30, 1990, in memory of past president Robert L. Biben, M.D. Applications are encouraged from all segments of the San Francisco community, including individuals, clubs, institutions and agencies, and must be received by February 24, 1989.

A theater project, Smart Hearts, was a recent recipient of the grant. This variety show is being performed by a troupe of senior citizens in order to motivate younger audiences to adopt heart-healthy lifestyle habits.

Other Biben Grant projects have included "Heart and Soul," a high blood pressure education program in the black community; "Heartflash, Break for Fitness," a heart-health education program for Latino teenagers, featuring break dancing; and "The Heart Healthy Baby Book," a booklet for parents with tips on raising a heart-healthy child.

For applications and further information, call the Programs Department of the American Heart Association, San Francisco Chapter at 433-2273.

John Burton announces Assembly Fellowship

Assemblyman John Burton today announced availability of applications for 1989-90 Jesse Marvin Unruh Assembly Fellowship Program. Fellows work as Assembly staff in Sacramento for 11 months, and are paid \$1,500 per month. While Fellows are required to have a bachelor's degree, Assemblyman Burton noted, any academic major is acceptable.

Assemblyman Burton invites anyone interested to contact his district office at (415)557-2253 for further details.

Award

Continued from Page 1

commendations from Senator Marks and the State Senate. Marks' commendation mentioned the GRAPEVINE.

Ted Fang, publisher of the San Francisco *Independent* received Media award.

Other awards were presented to: Ben Vigil, SFPD; James Lyons, SFFD; Michelle Schulz, Council; Eleanor Canale, Association; Thomas Rickert, Civil Service; Scott Shaw, Government, and



Ted Fang and Pat Christensen

Raymond Pinkerman, Special Recognition.

SFCDMA is an umbrella

organization representing more than 2500 members from 32 neighborhood merchants associations.

What's doing in the park

Feb. 14 to Feb. 18: Sign-ups for Spring Softball League. Team rosters and fees will be accepted for the following leagues: Open and Women's Fast Pitch, Modified Fast Pitch, Open and Women's Slow Pitch, Coed, Masters (35 and older). Games to be played on lighted city diamonds, Mon. thru Fri. evenings and Saturday. Call 558-3542.

Feb. 18: Citywide Youth Checkers Tournament (Ages 6-19) at Chinese Recreation Center, Washington and Mason Sts. 11 a.m. Sign-up at your local playground or recreation center or call 558-4470.

Calling All Umpires: The San Francisco Youth Baseball League is looking for umpires, high school age or older, to call games this spring. Call Roger Bross at 586-9600 or John LaTourneau at 558-4056.

Wednesdays, 7:45 p.m.: Free Classes in Round and Folk Dancing, singles and couples at St. Mary's Recreation Center, Murray St. and Justin Dr.

Beginners come at 7:15 p.m. for special free 1/2 hour classes. Call 558-3601.

in the McLaren Park Reservoir. Mechanical removal of the water weed will be monitored by the State agency.

San Francisco Recreation and Park called upon the California Academy of Sciences to survey the reservoir prior to eradication efforts to determine if a fish population exists and if so, has request support services in relocating the fish. The S.P.C.A. has also been notified.

Hydrilla is a rapidly spreading aquatic plant that has invaded thousands of acres of lakes, rivers and canals throughout the U. S.

Nate Dechoretz, Aquatic Weed Biologist for California Department of Food and Agriculture, stated that the weed poses a threat to neighboring bodies of water. Therefore action is mandated.



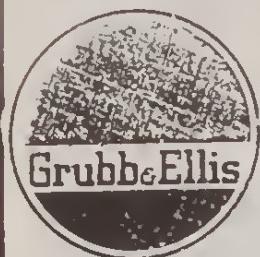
SPECIAL OFFER
\$100 Shopping Raffle

Cathy Kline
Senior Marketing Consultant

Born and raised in Visitacion Valley.
A Valley homeowner.

residential brokerage services

Grubb&Ellis



2633 Ocean Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94132
(415) 334-1880

**Special Offer from
Cathy Kline to
GRAPEVINE readers**

Free drawing for \$100.00 of groceries at Valley Super Market. Drop this ad and coupon in "Lucky Box" at Valley Super or mail to Cathy Kline.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

No purchase necessary. Participants must be 18 years or older

Sunnydale's study hall

The brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Xi Rho Chapter, San Francisco State University and the Mothers of Concern of the Sunnydale community are currently conducting a study hall for youth, grades K-12 at the Sunnydale Community Center.

This afterschool program is open Tuesday thru Thursday every week from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Young brothers and sisters who need a helping hand which supports academics and encourages and rewards successes are invited to attend.

Ciao

Continued from Page 10

"Pay? What do you mean, pay? We came last week and nobody paid."

Dearest Mother, you can't win them all!

Saboteurs

I am well aware that as a boy, I was overly active and mischievous, but I was never intentionally dishonest or destructive.

I recall a little incident that happened during the First World War.

Turin was an industrial town, constantly in danger of being sabotaged by the enemy, and people panicked easily.

The cry arose one evening that there were saboteurs on the roof. The rumor spread, and the police came to investigate. More witnesses appeared, swearing to more saboteurs.

The police cordoned off the area. A crowd gathered which soon became a mob. Our store was at the corner of the building.

My Mother was attending to customers while listening to incoming reports. I was sitting in a corner of the back room, reading a book.

Soon the mob became unruly and people were afraid to go to bed. They demanded protection. The military was called and soldiers surrounded the whole block.

By this time, reliable witnesses reported that at least a dozen saboteurs had been seen. There was panic in the air, great excitement in the street and I was sitting in a corner, reading a book.

Suddenly it dawned on my Mother.

She came to the back room and stood in front of me. I did not dare raise my eyes. Then came the inevitable question.

"Pinin, were you on the roof?"
"Yes, Mother."

I could never lie to my Mother.



WELCOME TO YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD STORE

VALLEY SUPER MARKET
65 Leland Avenue

Hours
8:00 a.m.
to
10:00 p.m.

PRODUCE LIQUOR GROCERY

SHOP BY PHONE FROM YOUR HOME
WE'LL FILL YOUR ORDER AND DELIVER FREE

10% DISCOUNT FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Call 239-7520



Enter Our
Weekly Contest
and Win \$25 worth
of FREE Groceries

**WE ACCEPT FOOD STAMPS
AND WIC CHECKS**